

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mallroom



8/22/16

Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12 St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: Docket No. 15-94
Comments in Support of Gorman-Redlich's Request for Limited Waiver

Ms. Dortch,

I am the owner of Radio Station KRTN in Raton, NM. In a small market we have a small operation with three full-time employees. We are not an LP-1 or LP-2 station, and to our knowledge no other broadcast stations rely on KRTN for the daisy-chain operation of EAS.

We are submitting this filing in support of the Waiver Request filed by James Gorman of Gorman - Redlich Mfg. KRTN currently uses legacy EAS equipment which is compliant with EAS rules except for the upgrade of six zeroes national location code.

As stated by Mr. Gorman in his Waiver Request, we have kept our legacy equipment because it continues to function as designed and performs to the specifications to which it was designed under Part 11 of the Commission's rules. Replacing the equipment would be very costly for us and would put an extra financial burden on us which, at this time in our business, is difficult. In connection with our legacy EAS box we have previously installed an intermediary device in order to satisfy the FCC's CAP requirements.

Mr. Gorman has proposed that stations like ours be permitted to modify the operation of the intermediary device as stated:

Allow for the insertion of the "ENTIRE STATE" location code (0XX000) for the station's state of installation into the generated EAS header code for messages received by the CAP intermediary device and which are addressed to the "ENTIRE UNITED STATES" location code (000000).

As we understand it, the proposed modification would allow our "Legacy" EAS equipment to respond to the nationwide message. We request that you grant Mr. Gorman's petition to give us much needed flexibility.

Thank you for your consideration,

William M. Donati, KRTN

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July 22, 2016

WAIVER REQUEST

I am writing to request a partial waiver to certain parts of the FCC rules contained in §11.56 (a) (2) regarding the processing of Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) messages into SAME-encoded messages that comply with the Emergency Alert System (EAS) protocol as defined in the remainder of Part 11.

It has come to the attention of many that certain manufacturers of so-called *legacy* EAS equipment are unwilling or unable – for whatever reason – to update their equipment to conform to the latest requirements set forth in the latest FCC Report and Order. Of specific concern is this equipment's inability to correctly process messages addressed to the "ENTIRE UNITED STATES" location code of 000000 ("all zeroes").

Many broadcast stations continue to employ equipment from these manufacturers in conjunction with intermediary devices which add CAP functionality to the EAS equipment and have, heretofore, allowed for the equipment to be wholly compliant with FCC Part 11 rules. This equipment remains in service because A) it continues to function as designed and performs to the specifications to which it was designed under Part 11 and B) replacing this equipment would not only represent a substantial monetary outlay for the stations but also presents the issue of how to properly dispose of the equipment without detriment to the environment and without allowing the equipment to fall into the hands of actors with malicious intent who could use the equipment to disrupt normal broadcast operations in the United States.

At this point, it should be noted that one ostensible purpose of the *CAP EAS Implementation Guide's* specifications is to provide for the uniform construction of EAS headers from CAP data is to prevent multiple headers from being created in relation to a single event, which would result in duplicate messages received downstream. For the scope of the partial waiver request described below, this requested waiver would apply only to stations that are not a LP-1 or LP-2 station and which have no down-stream monitoring assignments in the EAS "daisy chain."

To allow the continued operation of EAS equipment which *cannot* or *will not* be upgraded to accommodate the 000000 location code, I propose the following modification to the operation of the intermediary device:

- **Allow for the insertion of the "ENTIRE STATE" location code (0XX000) for the station's state of installation into the generated EAS header code for messages received by the CAP intermediary device and which are addressed to the "ENTIRE UNITED STATES" location code (000000).**

This modification, when constrained to non LP-1/LP-2 stations with no downstream monitoring stations, will allow such legacy EAS equipment to respond to the nationwide message.

Whereas the only messages that will be affected by this modification are addressed to the entire United States, this modification will not result in any false activations based on location codes; and

Whereas the scope is constrained to stations with no downstream monitoring assignments, this modification will not result in the airing of duplicate alerts at any other stations; and

Whereas the legacy EAS equipment at the station in question would not respond to the 000000 coded alert, no duplicate alerts would be aired by the station in question unless the 000000 alert is also sent with other location codes relevant to the station;

I hereby request the waiver as described above in order to allow the continued operation of affected legacy equipment until such time as it ceases to operate as designed.

Respectively submitted by:

James T. Gorman
Gorman Redlich